Availing Five Indian Posts by the US to Combat Terrorism in Afghanistan

2474. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United States has requested India to make five Indian posts available in connection with her efforts to combat terrorism in Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details of the request received; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Development of Fifth generation fighter Aircraft with Russian Collaboration

†2475. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to develop the fifth generation figther Aircraft under military and technical assistance with Russia;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress in the production of multipurpose goods carrier fighter aircraft under Indo-Russian cooperation so far; and

(d) the defence related matters discussed during the Prime Minister's recent visit to Russia and the contracts signed with Russia?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) In the first meeting of the Indo-Russian Inter-Governmental Commission, the Indian side agreed to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

commence on the Russian proposal to jointly develop a fifth generation combat aircraft. The Russian experts had completed the initial work on the proposed project and are required to make a presentation to the Indian side.

(d) No defence related agreement has been signed with Russia during the visit of Prime Minister to Russia November 2001.

Status of advanced light helicopter programme after lifting of US Sanctions

2476. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the HAL designed ALH programme suffered a set back when the USA and some other countries imposed sanctions on India after the Pokhran nuclear explosion; and

(b) if so, what will be the impact on this programme now that these sanctions have been lifted.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) During the design and development of Advanced Light Helicopter programme, engine CTS-800-4 H from M/s. LHTEC, U.S.A. was considered for fitment. However, on account of US sanctions, the supply of this engine could not take place. Therefore, efforts were made to locate alternate sources and TM-333-2B2 engine from M/s. TURBOMECA, France was selected with the concurrence of all the user-services concerned. Flight evaluation for certification of the Advanced Light Helicopter was progressed with the French engine and subsequently series production of the helicopter has also been taken up with this engine. Thus, after an initial delay, alternate measures as stated above, were taken in order that the programme proceeds towards completion.

In view of the above, waiver of sanctions does not affect the programme.